

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TEL AV 07841 211523Z  
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02  
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12  
SSM-05 /094 W

-----012095 211526Z /50

O 211441Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3753  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
USMISSION USUN NY  
USMISSION SINAI

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 7841

E. O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT IS  
SUBJ: ISRAELI PRESS ON BEGIN-WEIZMAN RIFT

1. ISRAELI PRESS REPORTS ON JUNE 21 ARE SPLIT OVER THE QUESTION OF HOW SERIOUS THE EFFECTS OF THE BEGIN-WEIZMAN RIFT WILL BE. AT THE TWO EXTREMES, DAVAR (BLOCH) REPORTS IN A HEADLINE STORY THAT CABINET MINISTERS ARE DEMANDING A VIGOROUS REACTION FROM BEGIN REGARDING WEIZMAN, WHILE THE JERUSALEM POST (LANDAU AND BRILLIANT) REPORTS THAT THE WHOLE INCIDENT WILL BE FORGOTTEN IN A FEW WEEKS IF NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS OCCUR. HAARETZ (MARGALIT) MAINTAINS THERE IS A CONTROVERSY IN THE LIKUD OVER WEIZMAN'S POSITION IN  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TEL AV 07841 211523Z

THE CABINET AND REPORTS THAT SEVERAL MK'S HAVE SAID PRIVATELY THEY WOULD DEMAND HIS RESIGNATION.

2. THE STORM APPARENTLY INCREASED YESTERDAY FOLLOWING DAVAR'S PUBLICATION OF THE FOLLOWING QUOTE ATTRIBUTED TO WEIZMAN, "THOSE TWO MEN (BEGIN AND DAYAN) HAVE BEEN LYING TO US FOR MONTHS...THEY ARE LEADING THE NATION TOWARD WAR."

(HERUT FACTION WHIP HAIM KAUFMAN ISSUED A DENIAL OF THE DAVAR REPORT ON WEIZMAN'S BEHALF. MA'ARIV (TIROSH AND BITZUR) QUOTE LIKUD MK'S IN SHARP CRITICISM OF WEIZMAN. TYPICAL WAS THE REMARK OF ONE MK,WHO SAID, "WEIZMAN HAS PLACED INTO THE HANDS OF ARAB PROPAGANDA A POWERFUL TOOL IT COULD NOT HAVE OBTAINED FROM ANY ARAB SOURCE. FROM NOW ON, ANYONE HAS ONLY TO CITE THE ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER IN BLAMING ISRAEL FOR FOILING THE NEGOTIATIONS." ACCORDING TO THE JERUSALEM POST, MK EHUD OLMERT (LIKUD-LA'AM) HAS DEMANDED THAT THE LIKUD'S KNESSET FACTION DISCUSS WEIZMAN'S OUTBURSTS. HE ARGUED, "IF A PERSON THINKS THE CABINET IS LEADING THE COUNTRY TOWARD WAR, HE MUST EXPLAIN HOW HE CAN BE A MEMBER OF THAT CABINET. DAVAR (BLOCH) REPORTS THAT ALTHOUGH WEIZMAN'S COMMENTS HAVE CAUSED IRRITATION WITH THE DEFENSE MINISTER THROUGHOUT THE LIKUD BLOC, PARTICULAR TURMOIL HAS BEEN FELT IN THE HERUT MOVEMENT. BLOCH ADDS THAT LIKUD CIRCLES BELIEVE SHARON AND ARENS WOULD BE THE MOST LIKELY CANDIDATES FOR THE DEFENSE MINISTER POSITION IF BEGIN DECIDED TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST WEIZMAN.

3. MA'ARIV (HARIF) REPORTS THAT SEVERAL MINISTERS MAY ASK BEGIN TO DEMAND THAT WEIZMAN ISSUE A CATEGORICAL DENIAL OF THE STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM OR RESIGN. HARIF EXPECTS A DECISION BY BEGIN ON WHAT TO DO ABOUT WEIZMAN WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS. HOWEVER, THE POST REPORTS THAT BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 TEL AV 07841 211523Z

HAS ALREADY DECIDED TO TAKE NO ACTION AGAINST WEIZMAN. WEIZMAN IS KNOWN, SAID ONE BEGIN AIDE, FOR BEING CARELESS ABOUT STATEMENTS, AND SOMETIMES SAYS THINGS HE REGRETS LATER. THE AIDE IS QUOTED AS SAYING HE WAS CONVINCED THAT WEIZMAN HIMSELF WAS ALREADY REGRETTING HIS ANGRY OUTBURSTS.

4. WEIZMAN AND HIS AIDES ARE REPORTED BY THE POST TO HAVE SAID DURING THE PAST TWO DAYS THAT THE DEFENSE MINISTER WOULD HENCEFORTH CONCENTRATE ON DEFENSE MATTERS AND DESIST FROM MUCH INVOLVEMENT IN DIPLOMACY AND PEACEMAKING. ACCORDING TO A BEGIN AIDE, THE PRIME MINISTER WILL TAKE WEIZMAN AT HIS WORD AND NOT INVOLVE HIM AS MUCH AS BEFORE IN THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

5. DOWNPLAYING THE SERIOUSNESS OF WEIZMAN'S PLIGHT, THE POST REPORTS THAT SEVERAL CABINET MINISTERS AND MK'S PREDICT THE INCIDENT WILL BLOW OVER, IF WEIZMAN KEEPS HIS COOL. ACCORDING TO THE POST, ONE LIKUD MINISTER BELIEVED IT WAS HIGHLY UNLIKELY ANYONE WOULD MENTION THE WEIZMAN CONTROVERSY IN THE CABINET AND SOME HERUT MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO TRY TO STEM ANY DEVELOPMENT OF AN ANTI-WEIZMAN TIDE IN THE PARTY. "THERE WILL BE

NO SLAUGHTERS AND NO HEADS WILL ROLL," SAID SHLOMO GONEN (HERUT EXECUTIVE MEMBER). YEDIOT (ZIMUKI AND OTHERS) CLAIMS THAT FINANCE MINISTER EHRLICH AND OTHERS ARE TRYING TO CALM TROUBLED WATERS. "WEIZMAN HAS A SURPRISINGLY GOOD RECORD AS DEFENSE MINISTER AND SHOULD NOT BE JUDGED ON THE BASIS OF HIS OUTBURSTS AT A MOMENT OF ANGER," SAID ONE LIKUD MINISTER TO A POST REPORTER. NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY MINISTERS ALSO ARE REPORTED TO HAVE REACTED CALMLY. A LEADING MEMBER OF THE NRP'S KNESSET FACTION SAID HE BELIEVED WEIZMAN'S POSITION IN THE CABINET WAS FIRM AND THERE IS NO CALL FOR HIM TO RESIGN.

6. IN A COMMENT IN HAARETZ, SCHIFF CHARACTERIZES THE ENTIRE INCIDENT AS THE FIRST SHOT IN THE BATTLE FOR SUCCESSION.  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 TEL AV 07841 211523Z

ACCORDING TO SCHIFF, WEIZMAN WILL NOT STAY DEFEATED IN THE LONG RUN -- HIS PUBLIC STANDING HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED AS THE ONLY MODERATE WILLING TO STAND UP TO BEGIN IN PUBLIC, AND HIS FAILURE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN ONLY TACTICAL. LEWIS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISPUTES, PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL LEADERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978TELAV07841  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780258-1195  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** TEL AVIV  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780633/aaaabcpp.tel  
**Line Count:** 140  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 53253984-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 mar 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2256612  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ISRAELI PRESS ON BEGIN-WEIZMAN RIFT  
**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, SOPN, IS, (BEGIN, MENAHEM), (WEIZMAN, EZER)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/53253984-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014